Read for the Gold Library Contest

In order to encourage students to use the library, I sponsor a reading contest between grade levels every February. This year I tied it to the Olympics. Students competed to see which grade checked out more books, and the top three students in each grade level won a gold, silver, or bronze medal as well as gift certificates to Barnes and Noble. The winning grade level received ice cream sundaes.

The seventh grade won the four-week contest, with over 80% of students checking out two or more books. Sixth grade was close behind with more than 75%, but could not break the 80% mark. The results were tallied each week and included in the student-run broadcast and were written up in the school newspaper, which is actually a wiki.

The language arts teachers really encouraged the students to come to the library, and we all took great delight in quizzing students about the books they checked out, as a “checks and balances” system to be sure they were reading . Additionally, the language arts teachers required students to keep a reading log and complete a role as part of a literature circle.